THE HORSE

BY JOSEPH BATTELL.

[From Advance Sheets.]

[*Continued from last week.*]

VI

ASIATIC, AFRICAN AND AUSTRALIAN HORSES

for horse breeding than this, almost every farmer having large tracts of grass land far in excess of what he requires for his stock, and well suited for horse rearing; but unfortunately those who do breed horses seem to give no thought either to the selection of mares or stallions. The consequence is that the breed of horses in this country is steadily degenerating year by year. There is no doubt the Cape horse stands the Indian climate much better than the Australian horse, being a hardier animal, and continuing fit for work to a much more advanced age. The Cape horses imported during the Indian mutiny are still spoken of by cavalry and artillery officers as the finest lot of horses ever imported for army purposes into India. Unless the subject is taken up either by the Colonial or Indian governments, I think in a few years there will be scarcely a good horse in the country, as the colonists themselves rarely use horses for draft purposes, and seem to be quite satisfied if they can get an undersized pony at a small price to carry them twenty or thirty miles, after which they knee-halter and turn the poor brute out to grass without grooming or feeding, apparently not much caring whether it is alive or dead in the morning. For this reason a high-priced horse would be looked upon as rather a nuisance, requiring a certain amount of care which they seem unwilling to give."

HOTTENTOT DRIVERS.

"Eight or ten swift, wiry little horses are harnessed to a wagon—a mere platform on wheels—in front stands a wild-looking Hottentot, all patches and feathers, and drives them best pace all 'in hand,' using a whip like a fishing-rod, with which he touches them, not savagely, but with a skill which would make an old coachman burst with envy.

"I watched the process of breaking a couple of colts, which were harnessed second and fourth in a team of ten. The colts tried to plunge, but were whisked along and couldn't; then they stuck out all four feet and skidded along a bit, but the rhenoster bushes tripped them up (there are no roads), and presently they shook their heads and trotted along quite subdued. Colts here get no other breaking, and therefore have no pace or action to the eye.

"The wagon teams of wiry little thoroughbreds, half Arab, look very strange to our eyes, going at full tilt.

"I could write a volume on Cape horses, such valiant little beasts and so composed in temper I never saw. They are nearly all bays, a few dark grays, very few white or light gray, I have seen no blacks, and one dark chestnut. They are not tall, and have no beauty, but one of these little brutes will carry a six-and-a-half-foot Dutchman sixty miles a day, day after day, at a shuffling, easy canter, six miles an hour; you let him drink all he can get, you off saddle every three hours and let him roll; his coat shines, his eye is bright, and unsoundness is rare, their temper is perfect. Every morning all the horses of the village are turned loose; a general gallop to the water tank takes place, where they drink and lounge a little, the young are fetched back by their niggers; the old stagers saunter home by themselves. Our groom at home would be astonished at offering a horse on a journey nothing to refresh himself but a roll in the dust."

AUSTRALIAN HORSES.

"The Australian colonies had horses equal to any in the world either for useful or ornamental purposes. (I said "have" in my first edition, but in this I correct my error.) The first settlers imported them chiefly from the Cape and from Valparaiso. These were crossed with the thoroughbred sires imported from the mother country.

"The country was as favorable to the multiplication of horses as the plains of South America, and the breed came of a better stock than the Spanish. One of the principal pursuits of the colonists—rearing cattle—required good horsemen, and these, being Englishmen, lost no time in establishing horse-races; indeed, it has been asserted that in 1870 the stakes run for at the races of the Australian colonies exceeded in value those of all the governments of the Continent put together; without counting the catch-weight races which are held whenever a few stockmen—that is, cattle herdsmen—are gathered together.

"As the colonists grew rich, they indulged, amongst other luxuries, in the importation of thoroughbred horses and mares, purchased in England at the highest prices of the day. The consequence is that the three colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia are well provided with blood-horses of the purest pedigree; and Queensland, the great island of Tasmania, and New Zealand (the Britain of the South) have race-meetings conducted with all the English forms and ceremonies. The Australian bush horses are equal in powers of endurance to anything recorded in equine history, but in other respects, in consequence of the manner in which they have been treated, they have deteriorated, and are inferior in quality and symmetry to the small select stock of riding-horses raised when New South Wales and Tasmania were the only colonies in that region.

"Of late years some very fine Arabs have been imported by Australian colonists, but not enough is known at present to state anything certain of the results. If anywhere, the desert Arab transplanted should find a congenial home in the hot plains of Australia.

"There was a considerable trade in the export of Australian horses to India for military and racing purposes, where they are familiarly known as 'Walers,' an abbreviation of 'New South Wales,' but that trade has recently declined in importance.

"The Australian horse has deservedly the reputation, both at home and in India, of being vicious, especially for a trick of spitefully plunging (colonially, 'buck-jumping').

"The explanation is simple enough. The breed has not the placid temperament of the Spanish horse, will not bear the brutal treatment under which the Spaniard cowers and trembles.

[*To be Continued.*]

SOME CURIOUS PETS.

WILD ANIMALS AS WELL AS TAME ONES MADE FAVORITES.

Ancient and Modern Men of Note Have Doted on These Singular Pets—Sir Richard Burton's "House That Jack Built" In Damascus.

Nothing in human nature is perhaps more peculiar than the practice of adopting some representative of the animal world as an intimate. It may be conjectured that the first pets were those animals which had already proved themselves useful in the service of man, such as horses and dogs. By and by, as other animals became domesticated, they were admitted to a degree of intimacy which, while not perhaps exactly that of the modern pet, was a step in that direction. The ancients as well as ourselves are known to have lavished no small amount of affection upon their favorites. Did not Alexander grieve for the loss of Bucephalus and endeavor to console himself with Peritas, the lion fighting dog, which cost him something over £800 in India? And had not both horse and dog cities named after them? Did not the dog of Xanthippus swim beside his master's galley to Salamis? The mares of Cimon, with which he was thrice victorious at the Olympic games, were buried beside his own tomb. We all remember how "the young man's dog" accompanied the son of Tobit and the angel Raphael on their remarkable journey.

But the ancients had singular pets as well. Pythagoras tamed an eagle so far that, by pronouncing certain words, he could instantly check it in its flight and make it return to the ground. Alcibiades had a dog of uncommon size and beauty, which cost a large sum of money, and yet he had the animal's handsome tail cut off, in order, as he said, to give the Athenians something to talk about. Besides his dog, Alcibiades was fond of his fighting quails and rewarded the restorer of a lost bird by giving him command of the fleet. Sertorius, when in Lusitania, received a present of a milk white hind, which became so attached to him as to come when called and follow him about and learned to bear the noise and bustle of the camp and the battlefield. Cardinal Wolsey, it will be recollected, was familiar with a venerable carp. Cowper's only relief from melancholy was to play with his pet hares. Clive owned a pet tortoise. Did not Mr. Parnell on one occasion interrupt an important conference of the Irish parliamentary party while he saw to the feeding of a favorite retriever?

Lesser known people have made pets of snakes, toads, hedgehogs and other animals not usually considered as domestic. It is largely a question of environment. The dweller in cities is usually compelled by the exigencies of space to restrict himself to cats and dogs, and even the humble occupant of a single room will be found the possessor of a linnet or canary. Birds, indeed, from the small space they require, are first favorites as city pets. Bears are great favorites on board ship, where they get quite tame, and sailors have even been known to pet an alligator in default of a more agreeable animal. A robin flew on board the Victory in the heat of the battle of the Nile and took up its quarters in the admiral's stateroom, and accompanied the ship to Naples, the pet of all on board. Who does not remember the little dryasdust entomologist whom the autocrat of the Breakfast Table called the Scarabee, and who had nothing in the world to love but a large gray spider?

People who are compelled to reside for any length of time abroad usually make pets of the animals indigenous to the locality in which they live. How strange was that abode at Damascus where the late Lady Burton and her distinguished husband resided. In addition to the ordinary live stock, consisting of fowls and goats, together with the horses and camels, there were a Persian cat, a lamb and a leopard. The last named was trapped as a cub in the desert and presented by Hole Pasha to Sir Richard Burton to show his appreciation of the latter's conduct in averting what might have been a dangerous outbreak of fanaticism in Damascus. Lady Burton was quite enthusiastic about this, the most remarkable of her pets. He never did the household any harm, but frightened the other animals, especially the cat, though he was in turn afraid of the bulldogs, but used to side with them in their antipathy to a certain baker. He used to play hide and seek with his mistress, and, as she naively remarks, "When he bit too hard, I used to box his ears, when he was instantly good." He used to sleep in his mistress' room, and when he fell a victim to poison administered by the neighboring peasants, who were afraid of him, we are not surprised to hear his death was the cause of much grief.

Another pet in this strange household was a Kurdish dog as big as a St. Bernard, and which looked like a bear. His name, Kasrawan, was corrupted into Cuss. He was an inveterate fighter, but a splendid watchdog. Indeed, the Burton menage was, as Sir Richard himself described it, a sort of house that Jack built, for the pigeons ate the seeds and destroyed the flowers, the cat preyed upon the pigeons, and was in turn worried by the dogs, while the leopard harried the goats to such an extent that one of them in sheer disgust went and committed suicide by drowning, while the favorite's yells almost scared the life out of the donkey and camel.—London Standard.

Freezing Air.

Most students of chemistry have seen water frozen in the average temperature of a room, but few have ever seen the air solidified, so that it could be handled like ice or any other tangible article. But this has been done by Professor James Dewar of London. The operation is carried on through several stages and with various agents. Gases are reduced to liquids under great mechanical pressure, then suddenly liberated. Certain gases under pressure give a temperature 145 degrees below zero, and the evaporation of these is one part of the process. Pressure of almost 2,000 pounds to the square inch has been employed for the gases. The experiments are enormously expensive with present appliances and are of use only as demonstrations of possibilities. With further research may come more simple and less costly methods and materials. The future of freezing has great promise, and its value cannot be estimated.—New York Ledger.

Kleptomania.

"I am happily able to prove," remarked the counsel for the defense, "that my client is a kleptomaniac. To that end, if it please the court, I submit in evidence the deeds in her name to $100,000 worth of unincumbered real estate and gilt edged securities to the amount of another $100,000. We rest."

The jury found a verdict of acquittal without leaving their seats.—Detroit Tribune.

AGAINST CARICATURES.

A Bill to Curb the Ambitious Pencils of New York Artists.

Timothy E. Ellsworth, who has recently regained the Republican leadership in the New York state senate, has introduced a bill in that body to prohibit the publication of caricatures and unauthorized portraits in the newspapers. Senator Ellsworth's grievance against the pictorial press cannot be said to be a personal one, for never until he introduced this bill had he attained the dignity of being caricatured. Indeed, some of the New York cartoonists advance the suggestion that perhaps he was piqued on that account. Whatever the reason Senator Ellsworth proposes to kill caricatures if he can.

The bill provides "that no person, firm, partnership, corporation or voluntary association shall print or publish in any newspaper, magazine, periodical, pamphlet or book any portrait or alleged portrait of any person living in this state without first having obtained his or her written consent to such printing or publication." Violation of this he proposes to punish by a fine of not less than $1,000 and an imprisonment of not less than one year.

Mr. Ellsworth is one of Senator Platt's lieutenants, and this is not his first appearance in state politics. He is about 60 years old and was born in East Windsor, Hartford county, Conn. He was graduated from the Rochester university in 1857 and studied law, being admitted to the bar a year later. He had just begun to practice when the civil war broke out. He raised a company of volunteers and later was made an aid-de-camp. He served until peace was established, and then went back to his law office.

TIMOTHY E. ELLSWORTH.

Mr. Ellsworth was sent to the state senate in 1882 and served for four years in succession. Since 1886 he has been in political retirement, but has been active in his profession, being a member of a leading law firm of Lockport. He has signalized his return to the political arena by introduction of this somewhat unusual bill. Of course it has caused a deal of talk among the New York editors and newspaper men, and as they can reach the ears of an immense audience Mr. Ellsworth has been given wide notoriety. If his measure becomes a law—which is improbable—the Empire State will be made an asylum or haven of refuge for all public men of sensitive nature who object to seeing their pictures published.

A FAMOUS PHYSICIAN.

Dr. Schweninger Has Distinguished Patients All Over Europe.

Dr. Schweninger, the famous physician who keeps Bismarck alive, is obliged to pay the penalty for his fame. His patients are scattered all over Europe, and some are in even more remote corners of the earth. The most distant he treats by cable and telegraph. One of these is a grandchild of Li Hung Chang, and it costs $4 a word to send his instructions. Other distinguished patients are found in nearly every capital of Europe. When Dr. Schweninger makes his rounds, he does not use a carriage, but he takes his trunk and the fastest express he can find. For the past ten years he has almost lived on the railroads, dodging in and out of Berlin like a shuttle in a loom. One day he will post off to Vienna, treat a prince, and rush back to the German capital just in time to deliver a lecture in the Berlin university, where he still holds a professorship.

The next day he will be on his way to the Riviera and on the next hastening to Stockholm. He says that last year he slept 250 nights in sleeping cars. He numbers the sultan of Turkey among his patients and scores of royal personages of lesser rank. He is already wealthy, and his income must be something immense. But his work keeps him thin. It is the irony of fate that while he has been called upon

DR. SCHWENINGER.

to reduce the weight of half the great men of Europe he cannot acquire even a moderate amount of flesh. He is in splendid physical condition, however, and can eat and drink all those things which he forbids his patients to touch.

His first great patient is still his chief one and he is never absent for more than two or three weeks at a time from Friedericksruh. His rise to fame was a rapid one. As a young Bavarian student of medicine he had met Prince William Bismarck at college. A few years after graduation he had the good fortune to cure his friend of dropsy. The young prince recommended his physician to the Iron Chancellor, who was thought to be dying. The young physician was successful where others had failed, probably because he had the courage to bulldoze Bismarck into obeying his instructions implicitly. This cure made him famous.

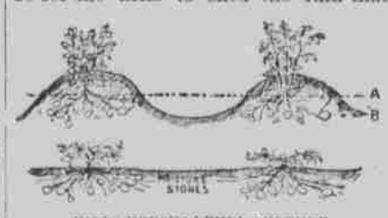
FARM AND GARDEN

IN THE POTATO FIELD.

Level Culture Is Now Practiced by Leading Potato Growers.

The faulty method of hilling potatoes still common with some growers is the occasion of an illustrated description of the two methods, hill and level culture, by Elias A. Long, in American Gardening. In his sketch the upper part represents the plants of a potato patch in their relations to the contour of the ground just after hilling up. Mr. Long writes:

It is this hilling up process to which I most decidedly object, because the disadvantages greatly outnumber the advantages thereof. First, there is the labor. The dotted line, a, is supposed to show the natural level, the hilling up involved raising the soil from below this line and heaping it around the plant above the ordinary level, no little job. Second, potatoes thus hilled suffer more from drought than is the case in flat culture. First the superficial area of surface exposed to evaporations is greatly increased. In order to realize this it is only necessary to compare the length of the dotted line, A, with that of the contour line, B, and yet, while the surface thus exposed to evaporation is greatly increased, quite an item with us here in the midst of very dry times, such increase does not count for anything in case of rain, for of course no more rain falls in a half acre hilled than on the same level. Then in case of a heavy, quick shower the tendency would be for the hills to shed the rain that



HILLS VERSUS LEVEL CULTURE.

falls over the roots into the bottom of the furrow to one side, where it would do less good.

In the case of the potato patch here referred to in the hilling process, the soil between the hills, the surface in the bottom of the furrows as left by the hoe is hard and smooth. It differs widely from the space between hills of the level system, which I strongly recommend. Here the cultivation consists in keeping the surface between the plants loose and free to a depth of two or three inches. This is done by passing over the surface in small patches with the hoe; in larger ones, with horse cultivator or scarifier. What the difference in the drought resisting properties of a hard, smooth surface and a loose, open surface, respectively, comes in, is a lesson which every gardener should well heed.

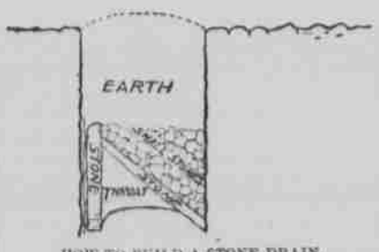
In potato culture the soil should be managed for conserving a maximum amount of moisture to the plants during the growing season. How to do this is to preserve the most natural course of culture indicated by the lower engraving. Then, by less labor, we retain a minimum area of surface from which to allow moisture to evaporate, and instead of a hard space between the plants, which rapidly loses its dampness, we have a well tilled surface, in which moisture in maximum amount is retained to the plants even in dry weather. The hilling process is unnatural in another respect. By drawing the soil against the plants three or four inches above the surface more or less of the leaves are buried, with loss to the plant.

Timber Areas on the Watersheds.

In a report to the governor of Pennsylvania the secretary of the department of agriculture advises, as soon as the condition of the state treasury of Pennsylvania will permit, an attempt to obtain control of at least a portion of the timber areas on the watersheds of one or both branches of the Susquehanna river, in Pennsylvania, by imitating the example of other states and be placed in a position in the near future to influence the water supply by controlling the character and condition of the forests upon the watersheds.

Making a Drain.

With the determination to drain an unsightly low spot it was plowed, leaving a heavy, dead furrow where the drain should be and a board or plank trodden down in the center of the furrow. "At this point," writes a Rural New Yorker correspondent, "we increased the usefulness of our potato crates, which were filled with small stones and placed as sentinals along the dead furrow, when all was ready to go into winter quarters. We had an unusually cold spell early in December. It froze very hard. I shouldered my pick and shovel, started for the wet spot, now frozen dry, but with no frost under the boards. The bottom of the ditch was left highest in the center, stoned up with flat stones for a throat and the small ones from the crates on top. (See cut.)



HOW TO BUILD A STONE DRAIN.

"As fast as dug and stoned up the earth was replaced to prevent freezing. There is nothing more important than covering a stone drain with plenty of earth before a rain fills it with mud and sand. I wouldn't give much for a ditch filled to the surface with stones."

SUCCESSION OF SWEET CO

For a Connecticut Sweet Corn Trade—a Massachusetts Summer Resort

A succession of sweet corn for the ...necticut trade was the subject of a ...munication to Rural New Yorker, ... writer said:

We do not depend on successive p... ings, as oftentimes the same var... planted 5, 10 or 15 days apart on ... early ground, will often mature at ... tically the same time. Nothing wil... a corn trade quite so quickly as ... tough corn. We think it just right ... the nail will easily break through ... skin of the kernel and it is full of ... Of the short varieties, like Cory ... have the rows 2½ to 3 feet apart ... the hills 2½ feet in the row. Of th... varieties we have rows 3 feet apart ... 2½ to 3 feet in the hill. Plantin... thickly will give too many small ... imperfect ears.

The reason why we prefer diff... varieties is that people like a cha... The later varieties are usually of b... quality. For 500 ears per day we sh... plant about as follows: Two quar... First of All, 6 quarts of Early Ess... quarts of Crosby's Early, 6 quart... Shaker's Early, 4 quarts of Potter's ... celsior, 8 quarts of Stowell's Everg... and 8 quarts of Country Gentle... For the earliest get dry land, with... eastern or southern slope. Get good ... Buy it in the ear if possible. If pla... too early, it is quite liable to rot. ... use stable manure largely, but a ... fertilizer goes into every hill to gi... a quick start. One of the largest s... corn seed growers in this country ... told me, "We catalogue all varieti... sweet corn, but sell more Stow... Evergreen than all the others pu... gether."

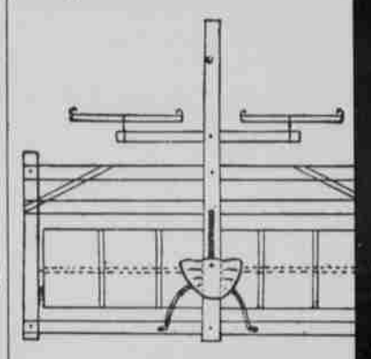
A second correspondent writing, ... a Massachusetts summer resort in v... said: "I would plant Cory and Cr... as early as the season will permit, ... then once in ten days or two we... would plant Crosby for a succes... For my trade Crosby gives good s... faction, and I now plant no other ... except Cory for very early. I p... Crosby and Cory corn in rows 3½ ... apart, the hills of Crosby 3 feet ... Cory 2 feet apart in the rows, thin... to four plants to the hill. If the la... good, I would suggest three-fourths ... each of Cory and Crosby, planted ... I, and thereafter three-fourths ... Crosby once in about 12 days to ir... 500 ears per day.

"For market and profit it is bes... one to use only the two kinds name...

"On rich land Potter's Excelsior i... cellent, and Concord does pretty v... The ears of both are larger than Cr... I have a good deal of hotel trade, ... the size of the Crosby just suits. ... year the retail trade at a watering p... was much pleased with it. The la... kinds of corn, especially if the lan... rich, should be farther apart than Cr... or Cory."

A Cheap Roller.

Six blocks were cut, a foot long, ... white oak log about 2 feet in diam... A hoe was bored through the cent... each block, and then the blocks ... strung on to a shaft out of an old d...



HOMEMADE ROLLER.

The frame was made of 3 by 3 oak ... set high enough so that the tongue c... be bolted to back of the frame and ... the roller. The corners were br... with old wagon tire. This illustr... description is from Ohio Farmer.

New Uses For Greenhouses.

The decreased cost of constructing ... managing greenhouses is leading ... great multiplication of their num... and, as another result of the use ... which they are put, American C... vator reports that a Philadelphia ow... of numerous greenhouses for whic... could not find profitable use dev... several to the growing of potatoes. ... course in rich soil and with abund... warmth and moisture the crop was ... large. He had homegrown potato... early as they could be brought from ... south and made a fair profit by sel... at the same price per peck as new p... toes brought per bushel a few w... later.

Fermented Honey.

In Langstroth's revised edition oc... the following: "If any honey sh... ferment, let no one think that i... spoiled, unless it was really unripe ... has turned quite sour. A slight amo... of alcoholic ferment can be evapor... readily by melting the honey over wa... when the ferment escapes in the sh... of foam. As this fermentation is cau... by the presence of unripe honey, s... of our friends succeed in entirely ... venting it by melting all their ho... immediately after granulation. ... melting evaporates all excess of mois... contained in it, and we highly c... mend this method."

Formalin For Potato Scab.

Formalin has been tested at the I... ana station in place of corrosive su... mate for scab. Formalin comes in ... pound bottles, containing a 40 per c... solution, which is a colorless and o... less liquid. "Add half a pint t... gallons of water, soak the seed pota... two hours and then cut the plant." ... malin is more expensive than corro... sublimate, but it is not poisonous ... animals.